

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

Winter 2012**Lack of FUN...**

Although I have retired, I seem to be busier than ever – mostly trying to get my social security and 401k straight. That did not keep me from making made my usual pilgrimage, with my brother-in-law, Nick, to Orlando for the annual FUN convention and the Heritage auction. Heritage had a nice selection of fractional and encased postage. Unfortunately, the auction started early Thursday afternoon as opposed to Thursday evening – and, by the time Nick and I arrived, the fractional portion of the auction had already finished. I can hear my brother saying, “I told you to go down a day early!”

Once I realized that I would probably miss the auction, I sent in mail bids. However, my mail bids were lower than what I might bid if I had a chance to view the lots. The outcome was, as expected, I did not win a single lot! The fractional prices appeared rather strong, which provides some evidence that the market may be strengthening. Ebay prices seemed to have risen on the better Fr numbers and rarities as well.

My experience at the bourse was the same as my experience at the auction – zero purchases. My brother-in-law, Nick, did relatively well garnering a choice AU Fr 1337 and a VF 1368 for a very reasonable price.

FUN did prove to be a pleasant event courtesy of Art Paradis. Nick, Art and I attended Cirque du Soleil at Disney Village. Unfortunately, I saw only a few other FCCB members: Musk, Alex Perakis, Jim Polis and Don Kagen. The MIA dealers included Rob Kravitz and Hugh Shull.

I'm reminded that it's a new year and time for our annual membership dues. The mailing label on the envelope for the newsletter indicates when your membership expires. If your mailing label has “Paid Thru: 2011” on the upper right corner, please take a few minutes and send your check for \$15 made out to F.C.C.B. to renew for 1 year, or any multiple of \$15 for additional years to our treasurer:

David Treter, FCCB Treasurer
205 Brighton Ave.
Rochester, PA 15074

Memphis will be here before you know it! If you've never attended this show, it is the show for paper money collectors. It's also a great opportunity to try your hand at exhibiting. I feel that the fractional exhibits are some of the highlights of the show, and encourage everyone to seriously consider exhibiting. If you'd like to visit with some frequent fractional exhibitors to learn more, contact Bill Brandimore, Benny Bolin, Martin Delger or Jerry Fochtman. The exhibit registration form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience.

Here's hoping for better luck in Memphis. Happy Hunting!

Mike

Mike Marchioni

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HERITAGE

CURRENCY WEEKLY INTERNET AUCTIONS

The Heritage Currency Weekly Internet Auctions generally contain a number of lots of Fractional Currency. The auctions close every Tuesday evening at 10:00PM Central Time.

“My Wantlist” feature on HA.com can be utilized to notify you when notes that you’re interested in will appear in our upcoming Signature Auctions and Weekly Internet Auctions.



To consign your material, please call our Consignor Hotline
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AUCTIONS

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Outlook for the Fractional Market...

By
James Polis

So another FUN show is in the books and I have been given the enviable task of enlightening you as to the proceedings at the show and in the market place in general. Surprisingly, I did not see too many of the usual fractional coterie at the show although it is such a large convention hall that everybody could have easily been spread out across the bourse without my running in to them. I saw Mike and Art but did not run across too many of the other usual suspects. Tom Denly and Don Kagin had their usual large supply of fractionals in their display cases but it was slim pickings throughout most of the rest of the bourse. I did manage to pick up one note at the show from Lou Rasera, a nice Fr. 1328 in a PCGS Gem New 65 PPQ holder that was wonderfully original and very nice for the grade.



Being a rabidly active participant in the daily machinations of the currency market I often gain a unique perspective that is not gained by most collectors or even many other dealers. I attend almost all of the major shows and auctions so I am able to see up close what is going on. Attending auctions routinely gives one a perspective that the casual collector cannot appreciate by

simply viewing the prices realized of a sale. It is just as important to see who is bidding (and in some cases who is not bidding) and whether or not the buyers are dealers or collectors. The Live Internet bidding component that is now in place at most of the major auction houses certainly has changed the complexion of market analysis. Fewer dealers will show up in person at a sale and instead bid through Live Internet bidding. This makes it difficult to figure out who is doing the buying; is it dealers who perceive value and are going to mark up a note or is it a collector who is more the end user who may very well have a different valuation structure?

The FUN auction was certainly broad in its scope and exhibited a great deal of depth, about 6,500 lots worth. This made for a very intriguing sale as it is both well-attended and well-promoted but also full of values since there cannot be enough support across the entire spectrum to maintain proper value for all lots. Some areas of collecting were up and some were down. In neither direction did I detect a great rise nor fall when compared to prices realized throughout 2011. It did seem to me that in some areas, such as large size type notes, there was a little less dealer support than there was at previously sustained price levels. Perhaps this was a leading indicator that inventories are high enough and there isn't as much stretching in certain instances to obtain banal material. I guess only time will tell.

In our own world of fractional currency my overall outlook can only be considered bullish. There were plenty of empty chairs during the fractional session but that could easily be explained by the fact that it was a Thursday afternoon session. While prices seem to do just as well in those sessions they often do not garner the same live participation as do the night sessions. With that

said the prices were robust and, in many instances, outlandish. Some of the prices that really stuck out in my mind as being well beyond the statistical mean: Fr. 1310 PMG 65 EPQ for \$2,185, Fr. 1252 in PMG 66 EPQ for \$1,380, Fr. 1328 in PMG 66 EPQ for \$1,035, Fr. 1346 in PMG 64 for \$1,380, Fr. 1355 in PMG 65 EPQ for \$1,380, and of course a complete sheet of CSA paper for \$1,035 just to name a few. There



were certainly others that would fall into this category but there isn't the space to list them all. What this does show is the continuing trend that certain types of notes continue to bring even higher prices with the passage of time. Collectors, particularly Registry Set collectors, have been focusing their attention on notes that are in the upper echelon of the grading scale. Notes that are genuinely scarce varieties have also been bringing very strong prices. A synergistic price effect has been seen for notes that possess a combination of both rarity and grade. Even more run of the mill notes in normal grades have been seeing an increased degree of action and have been bringing better prices than what we have seen in quite some time. However you look at it, third party graded notes have completely overwhelmed the market place and they are the ones who dictate true market value.



As for what is coming up in the near future my understanding from Lyn is that the CPMX sale has about 75 lots of fractional currency in the main part of the sale, including a Fr. 1226 sheet, a high-grade Grant-Sherman wide face specimen as well as many other notes that are either scarcer numbers or better grades. As of this writing it is still a little early to know what CAA will have on hand for the Central States sale in April but, if it is

anything like a typical sale, there will surely be plenty of material to make everyone happy.

I invite your questions and/or comments to JPolis7935@aol.com.



JAMES POLIS IS BUYING AND SELLING **FRACTIONAL CURRENCY**

I am one of the strongest buyers in this field. Take a look at any major auction or show at who is buying fractionals in all grades and you will usually hear my name or see my face. Please send me your notes for a fair and expedient offer.

I am passionately looking for all scarcer varieties as well as Choice-Gem
Uncirculated Type Notes for my customers.

First Issue Perforated Notes

Gem Second Issue Notes with clear surcharges

Attractive and broadly margined Spinner notes

All Justice varieties

High grade Washington, Lincoln and Stanton Notes

ALL WIDE AND NARROW MARGIN SPECIMENS

ALL GRANT – SHERMAN SPECIMENS

WHY WOULD YOU WISH TO DEAL WITH ME?

PROFESSIONALISM

It is my promise to you, the customer, that you will always be treated with the most ardent professionalism regarding all matters.

AFFILIATION

I am a member of the Professional Currency Dealers Association, Society of Paper Money Collectors, Fractional Currency Collectors Board, and American Numismatic Association.

CONSERVATIVE GRADING

I am one of the most conservative graders in the hobby (ask anyone who has ever dealt with me).

AUCTION REPRESENTATION

Very competitive rates offered – I am at every major paper money auction

MAJOR ADVERTISER

Check out my full-page ad on *page 17* in every issue of the Bank Note Reporter.

WANT LISTS SERVICED

I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

Marchioni Fr. 1248 Choice CU

Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU

Gengerke Fr. 1330 Gem CU

Fr. 1336 Choice CU

O'Mara Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU

Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU

Fr. 1348 Choice CU

Fr. 1368 Gem CU

O'Mara Fr. 1371 Choice AU

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Buying & Selling



U.S. Fractional Currency



Call or Write

Rob's Coins & Currency

P.O. Box 6099

Chesterfield, MO 63006

314/878-3564

Robert J. Kravitz,

SPMC LM 294 • ANA LM 5361

(Current Membership List Information Removed)

Member's Trading Post

<p>Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Collection Effort.</p> <p>Jerry Fochtman jfochtman@bradmark.com 713/513-9309</p>	<p>Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail riconio@yahoo.com or call 818/591-2326.</p> <p>Thanks – Rick Melamed.</p>	<p>Wanted: FR1374 (Lincoln) Counterfeits notes, scans,clippings, info, etc.</p> <p>Fred Reed (FCCB #55) Freed3@airmail.net P.O.B 118162 Carrollton, TX 75011</p>
	<p>Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience</p> <p>Mike Marchioni Marchion@ETSU.EDU 423/439-5362</p>	

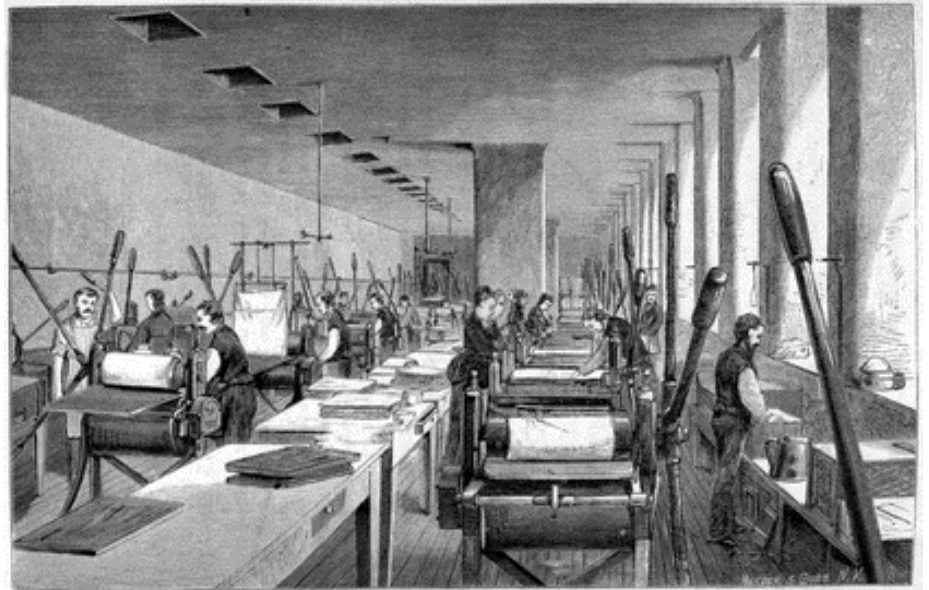
Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

Overview of the book "Ten Years in Washington"

By
Gerry Fochtman

This interesting book provides an insight into what it was like in Washington in the mid to late 1800s. It was written by Mary Clemmer Ames (1839-1884), a prominent newspaper women of that era. Collectors find the book interesting because she devotes Chapters 29 through 35 to observations on the treasury department, the production of currency, and even observations on "the watch-dog of the treasury" – General Spinner. Included in the work are a number of illustrations of work in the treasury. I've re-produced a few here for your enjoyment:

Making Money – The Room in the Treasury Building Where the Greenbacks are Printed.



Burnt to Ashes – The End of Uncle Sam's Greenbacks.



Original bound editions of the book are periodically available, as are print-on-demand copies. It also has been digitized and is available through several of the public digital libraries which can be found at www.archive.org. I've found that the version from the Cornell library to be an excellent copy. If you have a Kindle, there are downloadable copies freely available as well.

